

I found a nearly full-fed peppered (*Biston betularia* L.) feeding on sycamore, a food plant on which I have never previously found this polyphagous larva.

As regards other insects, bumble bees of several species were remarkably plentiful and so were drone flies (*Eristalis tenax* L.) in the early autumn, but honey bees and wasps were extremely scarce.

Records of Empididae (Diptera)

By R. M. PAYNE, F.R.E.S.

The following notes on Empid flies which I have taken in recent years may be of interest to Dipterists as supplementing Collin's remarks on distribution etc. in his great work *British Flies*, Vol. 6. *Empididae*, 1961. The species are listed in the sequence in which they occur in that work.

Bicellaria intermedia Lundbeck. A pair on stones on the shore of Loch Garten, East Inverness-shire, 16 Aug. 1966, and a single female in damp woodland near Daltulich Bridge on the river Findhorn, 13 Aug. 1966.

B. vana Collin. Collin refers to this as a common southern species, but the following seem to be new county records: Salcey Forest, Northants, a female on Dogwood leaf, 16 May 1965; Dinas Powis, Glamorgan, a female by evening sweeping in long grass, 3 June 1967.

Ocydromia glabricula Fln. I took a specimen of this glossy black little Empid on the very late date of 30 Oct. 1967, on a Hazel leaf in my garden at Dinas Powis. Collin gives his latest date as 18 September.

Oedalea apicalis Loew. This is clearly a rare insect, which Collin records only from the New Forest. I took a single female in Epping Forest, South Essex, on 21 May 1966. It is an unmistakable species, with wing-tips infuscated and stout antennal style. Oddly enough, Collin also records only females.

Rhamphomyia (Megacyttarus) maculipennis Zett. A coastal species, but Collin gives no Welsh records. A pair was swept from long grass above the small salt-marsh at East Aberthaw, Glamorgan, on 5 May 1968. Incidentally, this appears to be rather an early date, though I also took it on 3 May 1965 at Maldon, South Essex.

R. (Pararhamphomyia) tarsata Mg. A single female on the wing near the summit of Pen-y-Fan, Brecon (alt. 2900 ft.), on 18 June 1967.

R. (P.) atra Mg. Collin's records indicate this to be a south-eastern species, but he does not record it from Essex. I took a male on nettles by the Stort canal at Harlow, North Essex, on 25 May 1963.

R. (R.) sulcata Mg. A common insect, but the following records are from counties little visited by Dipterists: Salcey Forest, Northants, in a clearing, 16 May 1965; Trellech Bog, Monmouth, on Birch leaves, 13 May 1967, and Tintern, Mon., by sweeping, 1 June 1968.

R. (R.) subcinerascens Collin. Loughton, South Essex, on Blackthorn flowers, 18 April 1965 and 10 April 1966.

R. (R.) stigmosa Macq. Cwm Bychan, Merioneth, among Ling and Bracken, 3 June 1966; Llyn Fach, Glamorgan (alt. 1500 ft.), among *Juncus*, 26 May 1968.

R. (Holoclera) flava Fln. This delicate yellow Empid was swarming on

the flower-heads of Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium* L.) at the edge of a wood at Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, on 21 June 1968.

Empis (*Lissemis*) *nigritaris* Mg. A distinctive species, glossy black with yellow legs. It was common on Wood Spurge at Black Cliff, Tintern, Mon., on 13 May 1967.

E. (*Xanthempis*) *punctata* Mg. Beaten from Sallow at Dylife, Montgomeryshire (alt. 1100 ft.), on 2 June 1966.

E. (*X.*) *lutea* Mg. A very yellow Empid, of which I took a male on flowers of *Clematis vitalba* L. in a roadside hedge at Felsted, North Essex, on 31 July 1963.

E. (*Kritempis*) *livida* L. Perhaps the commonest of the large Empids, but the following captures in little-worked counties may be worth recording: Rayne, North Essex, 10 June 1959; Epping Forest, South Essex, on Bramble, Creeping Thistle, Marsh Thistle, Hogweed and *Phragmites*, 1960-1965; Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, plentiful on Ox-eye Daisy flowers, 21 June 1968.

E. (*Anacrostichus*) *verralli* Collin. I recorded this from Brecon in 1964 (*Ent. Record*, **77**: 110), and on 15 June 1968 I took a pair by sweeping grass, Bilberry and *Scirpus* at an altitude of 2600 ft. on Corn Du, in the Brecon Beacons.

E. (*E.*) *nuntia* Mg. Common on nettles by the Stort canal at Harlow, North Essex, on 7 May 1966.

E. (*E.*) *praevia* Collin. A female taken indoors at Loughton, South Essex, on 25 May 1964.

Hilaria pilosa Zett. Flying over a puddle in a ride in Salcey Forest, Northants, on 16 May 1965. Presumably a typical habitat, since Collin says "appears to be confined to well-wooded areas".

H. thoracia Macq. With its shining yellow thorax, this is one of the few distinctive species in this difficult genus. I took a male by the river Wye at Marteg Bridge, Radnor, on 16 June 1965.

Westwood, Highwalls Avenue, Dinas Powis, Glam.

New Forest Mercury Vapour Light Records

By L. W. SIGGS

In 1968, the trap at Minstead was not run from 23rd June to 5th August and from 5th September to 10th November owing to my absence in hospital and subsequent convalescence. This affects the value of the comparisons which are the main purpose of the annual reports. However, sufficient remains to provide some interest to those who like to know how things are going in the New Forest.

The numbers of specimens recorded are as follows:—

	Nights	Total	Average
March	24	1772	74
April	27	2680	99
May	25	1253	50
June	19	3393	179
July	nil		
August	25	5799	232
September	14	1822	130
October	nil		
November	16	246	15